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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Y. KANEDA, et al.

Serial No. 10/786,108

Group Art Unit: 2187

Filed: February 26, 2004

Examiner: J. Rutz

For: MANAGEMENT OF HIERARCHICALLY CONFIGURED STORAGE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

January 20, 2006

Sir:

Before further examination on the merits, and in Reply to the Office Action mailed October 21, 2005, please amend the above application as set forth below.